

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
or Suspension of the Educator's	)	<b>CONSENT ORDER</b>
Certificate of Vernal Jermaine Fulton	)	<b>OF SUSPENSION</b>
Certificate # 204530	)	

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 11, 2003. On July 3, 2002, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina Educator's Certificate (certificate) to Vernal Jermaine Fulton by certified mail, return receipt requested delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Fulton received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. Mr. Fulton initially requested a hearing, but through his attorney, Verdell Barr, Esquire, subsequently agreed with the Department to the propose the following resolution of this matter to the State Board: (1) his license will be suspended for six months from the time of his resignation from employment on May 2, 2002, through October 1, 2002, and (2) the suspension will be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all school districts in South Carolina as a suspension on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to accept the resolution proposed by the parties.

Accepted

Initial Here

Vernal  
Jermaine  
Fulton

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Fulton holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has over two years of teaching experience. During the 2001-2002 school year, he was a guidance counselor at Buford High School in the Lancaster County School District (District). Mr. Fulton was suspended on April 10, 2002, after an investigation into allegations that he engaged in unprofessional conduct with female students at the school, including inappropriate touching and comments. Mr. Fulton subsequently resigned from the District, effective May 2, 2002.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: "unprofessional conduct", S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regulation 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented by the Department, supports its decision to accept the proposal

of the parties to suspend Mr. Fulton's teaching certificate from May 2, 2002, through November 1, 2002, on the terms and conditions outlined above.

# South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

## Columbia, South Carolina

March 11, 2003

I, Verdell Barr, Attorney for Vernal Jermaine Fulton, and Vernal Jermaine Fulton, SC Teaching Certificate # 205397, do hereby agree to the proposed Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, March 11, 2003.

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Verdell Barr, Esquire

Date \_\_\_\_\_

/s/ V. Jermaine Fulton  
Vernal Jermaine Fulton

2/18/03  
Date